(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reasons for not giving priority to labour orientation for foreign capital investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Tenth Plan has identified labour intensive sectors and sub-sectors in the economy, which should be developed for creation of employment opportunities.

(c) and (d) Main objectives of the Industrial Policy of the Government include enhancement of gainful employment and optimal utilization of human resources. Government will fully protect the interests of labour, enhance their welfare and equip them in all respects to deal with the inevitability of technological change.

Promotion and development of Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector has been conscious policy of the Government as the sector is the major contributor to generation of employment opportunities in the country. Policy Package for SSI sector provides fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and market facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

(e) Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) forms an integral part of India's economic policies. The role of FDI in accelerating economic growth is by way of infusion of capital, technology and modem management practices which generates more employment.

Employment to 2.5 crore. people

†2576. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2.5 crore children are born every year in India; and

(b) whether Government have prepared any policy to provide employment to 2.5 crore people every year and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employment strategy for the Tenth Five Year Plan takes note of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

average annual addition to the labour force, which is projected at 0.7 crore per annum during the period 2002-07.

Regulatory authority for transport infrastructure sector

2577. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted a single regulatory authority for transport infrastructure sector to boost the economy;

(b) whether the PMO is working with the Planning Commission to finalise the proposal and bring under an omnibus umbrella the regulatory regime for sectors like roads, ports, civil aviations and railways;

(c) if so, -the details thereof and by when the scheme would be implemented; and

(d) whether Planning Commission had convened its first ever meeting to deal exclusively with the myriad infrastructural, social and economical problems plaguing Mumbai, the country's financial capital and if so, the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal to have a single regulatory authority for transport sector. However, a note on regulatory issues for the infrastructure sector is under preparation and is likely to be submitted to Committee on Infrastructure within three months.

(d) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 22nd November, 2004 in the Planning Commission with the officers of the Government of Maharashtra. Three key areas for Mumbai's transformation were indicated, namely, transport infrastructural, housing and other infrastructure. These proposals are at an early stage of formulation and the State Govt. has not yet developed them into implementable projects with the necessary financial tie up.

Number of SC/ST families below poverty line

†2578. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families related to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled

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